



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- *CBS* and the *Associated Press* report that 23 illegal immigrants employed by Ideal Staffing Solutions Inc., were arrested Wednesday, after being accused of using fake security badges to work in critical areas of O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, including the tarmac. The arrested workers, 21 from Mexico and two from Guatemala, face state criminal charges and deportation. (See items [13](#))
- *Fox News* reports that radical Islamists, who have failed in efforts to hit traditional military and diplomatic targets, are increasingly eyeing so-called "soft targets," and could be moving toward greater use of chemical and biological weapons, according to "Terrorism 2002-2005." (See item [38](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** ELEVATED, **Cyber:** ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 8, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **No injuries in Valero Port Arthur plant explosion.** An explosion today at the Valero Energy Corp. Port Arthur, Texas, refinery resulted in a fire during an emergency shutdown of a unit that removes sulfur from hydrocarbons, the refinery manager told *The Enterprise* in a telephone interview. No injuries resulted and all employees are accounted for, according to the vice president of

regional refinery operations for Valero's Port Arthur refinery. Because of the explosion and fire, the refinery is operating at about 60 percent of capacity, or 165,000 barrels of crude processing, compared with normal daily capacity of 265,000 barrels.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/5284927.html>

2. *November 8, Bloomberg* – (International) **Crude oil is little changed as Conoco, BP shut North Sea output.** Crude oil was little changed after ConocoPhillips and BP Plc shut 540,000 barrels a day of production in the North Sea as a storm approached. Workers were moved from the sites beginning November 6 in preparation for the storm, with waves as high as 36 feet expected in the area later today. U.S. oil supplies have dropped 10 million barrels, or 3.1 percent, in the past three weeks, according to an Energy Department report yesterday. Crude oil for December delivery climbed to \$96.44 a barrel at 11:55 a.m. on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=avaRfmCwZVNI&refer=energy>

3. *November 7, Platts* – (West Virginia) **DOE gives \$215-mil cost-shared coal plant the environmental nod.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on Wednesday finalized an environmental impact statement for a \$215 million, 98-MW coal refuse-fired power plant that it is expected to share the cost of building. DOE will put forward \$107 million for the joint venture with the Western Greenbrier Co-Generation Project. Impact analyses indicate that the plant would not exceed allowable emission levels, result in objectionable odors, or cause air quality to degrade beyond standards currently in place, DOE said. The facility will burn coal refuse to help produce power, hot water, and steam. The project is part of the initial round of projects in the DOE Clean Coal Power Initiative, which began in 2003.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/8346950.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 8, The San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Spilled fuel oil is 'the nastiest stuff around.'** The fuel that spilled from a container ship into San Francisco Bay, California on Wednesday is a "nasty" oil that breaks down slowly, is hard to clean up and could affect marine life for years, environmentalists and oil-spill experts say. The heavy-duty bunker fuel oil that leaked from the Cosco Busan after it clipped the base of one of the Bay Bridge's towers is what's left over after oil is refined for gasoline. By 3 p.m. Wednesday, some of the 58,000 gallons that spilled from the Cosco Busan had already floated into the Pacific and along the Marin County coast near Tennessee Cove, according to party-boat skippers coming in from fishing and crabbing in the Gulf of the Farallones. At noon, some 250 employees of the Port of San Francisco were sent home after fumes from the spill wafted into the port's offices at Pier One just north of the Ferry Building. Public health officials with the city said the fumes, while noxious,

would not cause long-term health problems. The Port of San Francisco posted signs in several languages on its property warning people not to fish there. Late Wednesday, oil spill response teams had put a floating boom around the Cosco Busan as the vessel lay at anchor off Candlestick Point. They also put booms around the sheen of oil left by the ship between the Bay Bridge and the anchorage. There is no estimate of when the oil spill will be cleaned up, according to a Coast Guard Petty Officer.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/11/08/MND7T870A.DTL>

5. *November 8, WCSC Live 5 News* – (South Carolina) **Plant fire in Georgetown County.** There was a chemical fire Thursday morning in Georgetown County, South Carolina at the 3-V Incorporated plant. The fire started around midnight but was considered contained by early this morning. There was no immediate word on how the fire started or what chemical was burning. There was also no immediate information on injuries or any evacuations.

Source: <http://www.live5news.com/news/state/11106551.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 7, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Guards deny wrongdoing.** None of the 10 security officers videotaped sleeping on the job at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station in Pennsylvania earlier this year admitted to being inattentive to their duties, according to a report released by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Monday. During interviews with NRC officials, those same guards did not acknowledge that they witnessed anyone else being inattentive while on the job. The report details the findings of an NRC augmented inspection team that in September reviewed the plant's then Wackenhut Corp.-run security program. The commission launched that inspection September 21 after it viewed a video provided by a Wackenhut Corp. guard that showed fellow officers nodding off in the plant's ready room. Despite guards sleeping on the job, the NRC review found that security of the plant was not in jeopardy because of the inattentiveness of the 10 now-former officers. Other security measures, such as physical barriers and motion detectors, factor into the safety of the power station, said an NRC spokesman. In the course of the September 21 inspection, NRC officials found that some of the guards they interviewed did not consider closing their eyes or putting their heads down on the table for a long period of time as example of inattentiveness, according to the report.

Source: http://www.ydr.com/newsfull/ci_7393759

7. *November 6, The Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Arkansas has enough space to store its nuclear waste.** Officials say Arkansas has enough space to handle its low-level radioactive waste that now goes to a storage site in South Carolina that will be closed next summer. Beginning July 1st, a landfill in Barnwell County, South Carolina, will be closed to most of the 39 states, including Arkansas, that now dump their low-level radioactive waste there. The site will then take waste only from South Carolina, Connecticut and New Jersey. In Arkansas, low-level nuclear waste is generated mostly

from Entergy's Arkansas Nuclear One near Russellville, the National Center for Toxicological Research in Jefferson County, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Those sites have plenty of storage for the foreseeable future.

Source: <http://www.todaysthv.com/news/news.aspx?storyid=55781>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 8, Aviation Week* – (National) **Aircraft big winners in 2008 appropriations deal.** Defense aircraft were big winners in the congressional agreement over regular fiscal 2008 defense appropriations, according to the report accompanying the bill, and they could benefit further from supplemental funding expected later. House and Senate appropriators November 6 hammered out an agreement that, except for embattled Army and Air Force helicopter programs, provided robust funding for fighters, warhorse helicopters, transport and unmanned aircraft. According to Senate appropriations staff, the compromise bill fully funds procurement of a number of aircraft programs, including four Joint Cargo Aircraft for the Army. The deal further provides an additional \$80 million for Army aircraft survivability equipment.

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/APPR110807.xml&headline=Aircraft%20Big%20Winners%20In%202008%20Appropriations%20Deal

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 8, Lower Hudson Online* – (New York) **Police warn of bogus-check scam.** The Putnam County Office of the Aging in New York recently contacted the county sheriff after a Southeast woman got an official-looking letter saying she had won \$48,650 in unclaimed prize money, said the sheriff. The letterhead identified the sender as The Millennium Plan Trust Account - Republic Bank & Trust, Norman, Oklahoma. Enclosed was a \$3,342 check from Republic, payable to the woman. While the bank is legitimate, the check was bogus, said the sheriff. The letter said the check was to cover a processing fee and asked the recipient to call a number to speak with a North American agent. Investigators surmise that the victim would have been told to deposit the check, and then wire money to the thief. Peekskill police said a similar letter tells recipients they are among 25 winners of a \$6.2 million online gambling draw. The letter has several typographical errors, said a detective. Anyone who gets such a letter may call their local police, or the F.B.I. at 914-989-6000.

Source:

<http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071108/NEWS01/711080357/1018/NEWS02>

10. *November 7, SC Magazine* – (National) **SecureWorks: Anti-spyware solution scam**

steals personal financial information. A complex plot involving fake anti-spyware products has scammed thousands of victims out of money and personal information, according to SecureWorks. Hackers in Russia and other Eastern European countries are using the Russian Business Network (RBN) internet service provider (ISP) and other hosting outlets to lure victims into clicking on malicious ads on high-traffic websites, the company reported this week. Clicking on a malicious advertisement opens a pop-up warning about a suspicious problem on the victim's computer, initiating a "sales process" for a bogus anti-spyware solution that costs \$19.95 to \$79.95. The rogue websites collect credit card numbers, names and other personal information in the process, according to the SecureWorks. Finally, the "anti-spyware solution" downloads a trojan, such as Zlob, which retrieves other personal information from the victim's PC over time, or a rootkit, which gives the attacker remote control of the victim's computer. The names of the bogus anti-spyware found in this offer include Spy-shredder, AntiVirGear, MalwareAlarm and about 40 others. The scammers make money not only from the sale of the "solution," but also from the sale of credit card numbers and access to the trojan- and rootkit-infected computers. According to SecureWorks, the scam thrives on collaboration among a number of internet criminals who randomly inject the ads with the malicious code, making it difficult for the website owner to predict which ads are malicious, said SecureWorks chief technology officer. "This type of scam will be around for a while because it's showing success," he said.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/SecureWorks-Anti-spyware-solution-scam-steals-personal-financial-information/article/58433/>

11. *November 7, South Jersey News* – (New Jersey) **Telephone scam revealed.** A Hopewell Township, New Jersey, man reported a telephone solicitation scam, in which the caller purports to be a state trooper raising funds for the Fraternal Order of Police. State police troopers are not members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), according to state police spokesman, but are organized under the State Troopers Fraternal Association of New Jersey. Furthermore, state police do not solicit funds by telephone or any other means.

Source:

http://www.nj.com/southjersey/index.ssf/2007/11/by_sean_c_mccullen_smccullensj.html

12. *November 7, WSPA News Channel 7, North Carolina* – (North Carolina) **Loan scams hitting the upstate.** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) says it is receiving complaints from consumers being taken by several loan scams hitting upstate North Carolina in the last week. According to one report, a victim wired about \$500 to what she thought was North Star Bank in Minnesota. But she says her \$5000 loan never arrived. When she called about it, she says they asked for another \$500. The BBB says it discovered the company was just using North Star Bank's name and address, but was really a scam being run out of Canada. The BBB says it's a common trick right now. The BBB president says another example of the same type of scam involves a loan offered by what she says is a bogus company called Seacoast Lending Group that used an address on Haywood Road in Greenville. At that same address is a legitimate bank, First Reliance, which said their address is being used by this bogus company. The BBB

reminds people that loans that require paying money up front are illegal and to check out any loan company at www.bbb.com before they apply.

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Transportation Sector

13. *November 8, The Associated Press and CBS* – (Illinois) **Police: Illegal workers arrested at O’Hare.** Authorities say 23 illegal immigrants employed by Ideal Staffing Solutions Inc., were arrested Wednesday, accused of using fake security badges to work in critical areas of O’Hare International Airport, Illinois, including the tarmac. “The investigation identifies a vulnerability that could compromise national security, while bringing criminal charges against individuals who built an illegal work force into their business practice,” said a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent. Agents found that 110 of the 134 badges issued to Ideal Staffing workers did not match the individuals who carried them, according to a U.S. attorney. According to affidavits unsealed Wednesday in U.S. District Court, the applications for the 110 bogus badges listed Social Security numbers that either did not exist or belonged to other individuals, some of whom were dead. One affidavit from a temporary worker who cooperated with authorities said he was told to look through a box containing about 20 airport security badges and to pick one with a picture that resembled his own face. The arrested workers, 21 from Mexico and two from Guatemala, face state criminal charges and deportation, said the ICE agent.
Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/11/08/national/main3471621.shtml?source=RSS&tr=U.S._3471621
14. *November 8, The Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Cruise ship runs aground in Virginia with 66 aboard.** A captain ran a small cruise ship with 66 people aboard aground in an isolated stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway early Thursday after it began taking on water, the U.S. Coast Guard said. There were no reports of injuries. Two 41-foot Coast Guard boats were transporting the ship’s passengers and crew to a ferry landing about 2 miles away from the rural area off Virginia Beach, said an officer. The boat was on a 10-day cruise from Alexandria, Virginia, to Charleston, South Carolina.
Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,309458,00.html>
15. *November 8, The Associated Press* – (New York) **NYC plane searched for bomb.** Officials at LaGuardia Airport, New York, searched a plane Thursday after a bomb threat was reported. American Airlines Flight 382 from Chicago landed safely and 117 passengers and five crew members were taken off the plane before the search began. Officials also said that the plane was moved away from other aircraft for the search, but the airport remained open. Bomb-sniffing dogs were sweeping luggage and the plane, and luggage was being matched to the passengers.
Source: http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8SPM02G0&show_article=1&catnum=1

16. *November 7, The Associated Press* – (Maine) **Flour, sugar close Jetport baggage claim.** Officials shut down a baggage claim for nearly six hours at the Portland International Jetport in Maine on Wednesday due to a powdery substance that turned out to be a mixture of flour and sugar. Investigators believe someone had the mixture in a plastic bag and that it somehow spilled on the luggage carousel. He said the passenger who was carrying the substance was never located, and it is unclear what flight the passenger was on.
Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/news/14534001/detail.html>
17. *November 7, USA Today* – (National) **Fatigue key to mistakes among pilots.** Hundreds of pilots, mechanics and air-traffic controllers reported that fatigue led them to make mistakes on the job, including six cases where pilots fell asleep midflight, a *USA Today* analysis of safety records since 2003 shows. The reports show that crews flew to the wrong altitude, botched landings and missed radio calls, according to an aviation safety database compiled by NASA. Pilot unions say fatigue is one of the top safety threats in aviation. The incidents are partially the result of changes in work rules imposed by financially troubled airlines that have put added pressures on pilots to fly longer hours, unions say. Research by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and others shows sharply higher risks of pilot mistakes and accidents after long shifts or periods without normal sleep. The NTSB will address the issue of fatigue Thursday at its annual hearing to adopt its “most wanted” safety enhancements. The FAA has tried several times to revise pilot work rules since the 1990s, but the efforts failed each time under opposition from airlines and pilot unions. The NASA system contains 750 incidents since 2003 in which aviation workers cited fatigue-related incidents. Pilots were involved in 650 of those cases.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-11-07-airfatigue_N.htm
18. *November 7, Arizona Daily Star* – (International) **Satellite will track cross-border trucks.** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will spend \$367,000 on 100 devices for trucks traveling to or from the United States and Mexico to monitor them as they pick up and deliver loads, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. Using Global Position System-based technology, FMCSA will track hours-of-service laws and rules that govern the trips into and out of the country. The agency also will allow real-time tracking of truck location and documenting every international-border and state-line crossing, said the spokeswoman. The decision to require the installation of satellite-tracking technology was made after members of Congress questioned participants’ compliance with U.S. safety and trade laws, said an FMCSA spokeswoman. To date, 15 trucks from five Mexican companies have registered with the program, as have 30 trucks from three U.S. companies. The program is expected to grow to about 540 trucks.
Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/business/210306.php>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *November 8, The Times-Herald* – (California) **Vallejo post office evacuated after caller says bomb's inside.** Two employees at a Vallejo, California post office received threatening phone calls on November 7 within 10 minutes of each other. According to a worker who received one of the calls, "A man said, 'There's a bomb in the building,' and then didn't say anything else." A supervisor at the main Vallejo post office advised them to evacuate. Both the main post office and the one that received the calls were searched, but no device was found.

Source: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_7404948

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Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *November 8, North Jersey Media Group* – (New Jersey; National) **Recalled meat still in 12 N.J. stores.** New Jersey's Attorney General is advising state attorneys general throughout the country to increase inspections of retail stores for recalled frozen hamburgers after Division of Consumer Affairs investigators, working with state, county and municipal health inspectors, found frozen hamburgers processed by Topps Meat Co. in 12 stores after they were recalled for potential E. coli contamination. "What began with the discovery of recalled hamburgers being for sale at a single store has escalated into a statewide public health issue, and potentially, a national issue as well," the attorney general said in a statement. State regulators are looking into possible charges against the merchants under the state's Consumer Fraud Act, which bars "unconscionable business practices," a Consumer Affairs spokesman said.

Source:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpenk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3NDImZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTcyMTg3OTAmexJpenk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkyMg>

21. *November 7, Canadian Press* – (North Dakota) **North Dakota board to require testing of Canadian cattle for 2 diseases.** North Dakota's animal health board says that starting on November 19, exporters of Canadian cattle must show proof that their animals have been tested for tuberculosis and brucellosis. The federal government recently allowed Canadian cattle producers to export cattle to the U.S. that were born after March 1, 1999. Restrictions had been imposed after some Canadian cattle tested positive for mad cow disease. The state veterinarian says the new test rules are similar to those in effect earlier when Canadian cattle producers could only export breeding cattle to the United States.

Source:

http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5jnQ8IYde6NFp2m_tUCwIFLArzCBQ

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Water Sector

22. *November 8, The Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Tujunga Wash project creates more recreation space while saving water.** A \$7-million partial revitalization of Southern California's Tujunga Wash will help conserve water and provides new

recreational space in the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles officials said November 6. The effort, known as the Tujunga Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration Project, diverts some of the water currently flowing into a flood control channel and sends it to an adjacent 1 1/2 -mile stream that runs alongside the wash in Valley Glen. The arrangement allows more water to seep into an aquifer called the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin, rather than flow to the Los Angeles River and eventually the Pacific Ocean, said the watershed manager for the county's Department of Public Works. The Tujunga Wash, a nine-mile flood control channel built in the early 1950s, funnels rainwater between Hansen Dam and Studio City where it connects to the Los Angeles River.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-wash8nov08,1,4488591.story?coll=la-headlines-california>

23. *November 8, The Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **All city schools to get water coolers.** The Baltimore school system in Maryland is abandoning 15 years of efforts to remove the lead in its water fountains and will instead provide bottled water in coolers to all schools. This announcement came after the city Health Department discovered that 10 fountains that had passed previous tests still contained unacceptably high levels of lead. Once the schools chief learned that it would be cheaper to provide bottled water to all schools than to continue lead testing, he said, the decision was a “no-brainer.” Around the country, urban school systems with aging buildings have spent millions of dollars trying to get lead out of their water.

Source: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-te.ci.water08nov08,0,7062144.story

24. *November 7, The Associated Press* – (Idaho; Washington) **N. Idaho city appeals water decision in Washington state.** Officials in Moscow, Idaho, saying they are trying to protect the city's water supply, have filed an appeal to stop a large-scale shopping development just across the border in Washington state. At issue is water from the Wanapum and Grande Ronde aquifers, which the city relies on entirely and which it argues will be harmed by the proposed development. Portions of the aquifers lie under both Idaho and Washington. In Idaho, officials are worried that this will set a precedent, which would allow Washington state to transfer water from the aquifers anywhere in Washington.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_id_shopping_development.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *November 8, Reuters* – (International) **China to take new steps to clean up drug industry.** China and the U.S. will seal a cooperation pact next month to enhance drug safety, and Beijing will launch a new sweep against the false advertising of medicines, China's drug watchdog said on Thursday. China has promised to crack down on rogue exporters as well as dealing with serious domestic safety problems, which are exacerbated in the drug industry by false advertising. A spokeswoman for the Chinese

State Food and Drug Administration said the agency will publish a quarterly report of the most serious offenders on its Web site (www.sda.gov.cn), while its subsidiaries at the provincial level will do the same and much more frequently.

Source: <http://sport.guardian.co.uk/breakingnews/feedstory/0,-7060057,00.html>

26. *November 7, Reuters* – (National) **Safety agency issues new batch of toy recalls.** On Wednesday the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced the recall of approximately 403,000 lead-tainted, Chinese-made products, including 380,000 toy cars sold at Dollar General Stores. No injuries were reported, the safety commission said. Also on Wednesday, Spin Master Ltd of Toronto recalled its Aqua Dots toys from North American retailers after a similar line of toys called Bindeez was recalled in Australia. At least three children were hospitalized in Australia after swallowing beads from the toy, which contained a chemical that converts into the sedating drug GHB when swallowed.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN0757253320071107?sp=true>

27. *November 7, Network World* – (National) **NASA satellites to predict and prevent infectious disease outbreaks.** On Wednesday, at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's annual meeting in Philadelphia, a NASA project to use 14 orbiting satellites to monitor the Earth's environment and help predict and prevent infectious disease outbreaks around the world was outlined. The ability of infectious diseases to thrive depends on changes in the Earth's environment such as the climate, precipitation and vegetation of an area. Data on these variables are collected daily to monitor environmental changes and then passed on to agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Defense which apply the data to predict and track disease outbreaks and assist in making public health policy decisions. The use of remote sensing technology helps scientists predict the outbreak of some of the most common and deadly infectious diseases such as Ebola, West Nile virus and Rift Valley Fever. NASA satellites are already watching areas with malaria infection rates. Remote sensing technology also provides information about possible plague-carriers, such as insects or rodents, and, by understanding the mixture of vegetation, rainfall and slope of the area, scientists can predict the food supply of disease transmitting vectors within the region and the threat they cause to humans. Because plague is also considered a bioterrorism agent, NASA surveillance systems enable scientists to decipher if an outbreak was caused by natural circumstances or was an act of bioterrorism.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/community/node/21654>

Government Facilities Sector

28. *November 8, The Associated Press* – (Washington) **Teen reportedly brought loaded gun to school in Grandview.** Police say a teenager brought a loaded revolver to a high school in Grandview, Washington. The 16-year-old student is being held at the Yakima County Juvenile Justice Center for unlawful possession of a firearm on school grounds. According to police, a tip led to the discovery of a .38-caliber revolver containing five or six rounds on the teenager's waistband November 6. He told school officials he was

carrying the gun for a friend.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_wa_gun_in_school.html

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *November 7, UPI* – (National) **Emergency response computer system created.** U.S. scientists have created a computer architecture that enables the secure transmission of information to first responders during emergencies. Princeton University researchers said the architecture allows the transmission of sensitive information during such instances as natural disasters, fires or terrorist attacks. The system, called a transient-trust, prevents the information from being intercepted by others and access stops as soon as the recipient no longer has need for it. Data provided on a transient-trust basis might include floor plans of a building, medical information about occupants or satellite maps of a given area. The study was presented in Alexandria, Virginia during a conference last month held by the Association for Computing Machinery Computer and Communications Security.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=7&id=6500>

30. *November 6, The Record* – (California) **Health-care worker shortage becoming dire in California.** Shortages in the state's widespread health-care work force are reaching critical numbers, a fact that could endanger every Californian's health in the near future, according to a study released Monday. While all industries are projected to show major shortages of college-educated workers in California by 2020, the study, sponsored by the Campaign for College Opportunity with funding from Kaiser Permanente and the California Wellness Foundation, found that these shortages have already reached the health care sector. Further, health care will soon be hit by the "double whammy" of California's aging population -- older residents will need substantially more care as they age, while a generation of highly skilled baby boomers retires from health-care jobs. The first study of its kind in nearly a decade found major shortages in allied health jobs, a sector which includes 60 percent of health-care jobs other than physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists. These technical occupations include such jobs as emergency medical technicians, radiology technologists and respiratory therapists.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=6&id=6502>

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Information Technology

31. *November 8, Computerworld* – (National) **Survey: With data breaches, less is more (dangerous).** A report released this week by the risk management firm ID Analytics Inc. found that, when it comes to security incidents involving the compromise of identity data, big breaches may actually be better than smaller ones -- at least from a consumer standpoint. Researchers studied the fallout from 12 security breaches involving the loss of Social Security numbers and other personally identifiable data. In all, the fate of over 10 million records containing identity data was analyzed. Out of the breaches studied,

the research found that the highest rate of organized misuse of data occurred with the smaller breaches. On average, about one in 200 identities were misused in breaches involving 5,000 identities or less. In comparison, the misuse rate was less than 1 in 10,000 for security incidents involving 100,000 or more individuals. What that means is that a consumer whose identity was exposed in a massive data breach is likely to be less at risk than someone who lost theirs in a small breach, said the chief privacy officer at ID Analytics. Even in cases where large data files are compromised, he explained, ID thieves rarely have the resources, the time, or the knowledge needed to misuse more than just a fraction of the data they acquire. The study also found no evidence to suggest that those who had the breached data were broadly disseminating it into the Internet black market, he said -- indicating that the extent to which stolen data is being made to criminal elements is probably less widespread than most assume. In most cases, the stolen identity data tended to be used by small clusters of people for making applications for new credit cards, he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9046018&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

32. *November 7, SC Magazine* – (National) **SecureWorks: Anti-spyware solution scam steals personal financial information.** A complex plot involving fake anti-spyware products has scammed thousands of victims out of money and personal information, according to SecureWorks. Hackers in Russia and other Eastern European countries are using the Russian Business Network (RBN) internet service provider (ISP) and other hosting outlets to lure victims into clicking on malicious ads on high-traffic websites, the company reported this week. Clicking on a malicious advertisement opens a pop-up warning about a suspicious problem on the victim's computer, initiating a "sales process" for a bogus anti-spyware solution that costs \$19.95 to \$79.95. The rogue websites collect credit card numbers, names and other personal information in the process, according to the SecureWorks. Finally, the "anti-spyware solution" downloads a trojan, such as Zlob, which retrieves other personal information from the victim's computer over time, or a rootkit, which gives the attacker remote control of the victim's computer. The names of the bogus anti-spyware found in this offer include Spy-shredder, AntiVirGear, MalwareAlarm and about 40 others. The scammers make money not only from the sale of the "solution," but also from the sale of credit card numbers and access to the trojan- and rootkit-infected computers. According to SecureWorks, the scam thrives on collaboration among a number of internet criminals who randomly inject the ads with the malicious code, making it difficult for the website owner to predict which ads are malicious, said SecureWorks chief technology officer. "This type of scam will be around for a while because it's showing success," he said.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/SecureWorks-Anti-spyware-solution-scam-steals-personal-financial-information/article/58433/>

33. *November 7, Computerworld* – (International) **Russian hacker gang goes dark to relocate; may be moving to China.** The Russian Business Network (RBN), a notorious hacker and malware hosting organization that operates out of St. Petersburg, Russia, has gone off the air, security researchers said today. According to a pair of Trend Micro Inc.

researchers, RBN went dark around 10 p.m. EST Tuesday. “The routing information for their IP addresses has been withdrawn,” said a network architect at Trend Micro. “That’s significant because while RBN has had connectivity issues in the past, then the routing [to its IP addresses] was still being advertised. This time, they’ve been voluntarily withdrawn,” he said. “This is not the result of someone, such as their ISP, blackholing their traffic,” he continued. Another report, however, on *The Washington Post’s* Web site, claimed that while RBN has severed links to the Internet, its upstream connectivity providers had begun to refuse to route RBN traffic as early as mid-October. By relinquishing control of the IP blocks it had been allocated, RBN essentially cut ties to the Internet and made it impossible for its domains, which number in the thousands, to access the Web or for users to reach those domains. He speculated that RBN is simply shifting to new digs, diversifying its considerable back-end infrastructure, trying to lay low or all of the above. “No one knows why they’ve done this, but I think they’re down, not out,” he said. A Trend Micro research project manager, agreed. “We’re seeing signs of RBN-like activity elsewhere, in Turkey, Taiwan and China. RBN may be moving to places even more inaccessible to the law [than Russia]. Everyone knows they were in St. Petersburg, but now they’re changing houses, changing addresses.”

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9045929&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

34. *November 7, UPI* – (National) **Emergency response computer system created.** U.S. scientists have created a computer architecture that enables the secure transmission of information to first responders during emergencies. Princeton University researchers said the architecture allows the transmission of sensitive information during such instances as natural disasters, fires or terrorist attacks. The system, called a transient-trust, prevents the information from being intercepted by others and access stops as soon as the recipient no longer has need for it. Data provided on a transient-trust basis might include floor plans of a building, medical information about occupants or satellite maps of a given area. The study was presented in Alexandria, Virginia, during a conference last month held by the Association for Computing Machinery Computer and Communications Security.

Source: <http://www.emsresponder.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=7&id=6500>

35. *November 7, IDG News Service* – (National) **Fast mobile on track but faces curves.**

Backers of the emerging mobile technology called LTE (Long Term Evolution), or SAE (System Architecture Evolution), said Wednesday that recent tests met targets for physical-layer throughput to both stationary and moving users. The LTE/SAE Trial Initiative (LSTI), backed by the 3GPP (Third-Generation Partnership Project) and numerous mobile giants, said the technology met expected peak data rates in tests with both single-antenna and multiple-antenna radios in lab and urban field settings. The peak data rate for LTE in initial deployments is 100mbps downstream and 50mbps upstream, according to LSTI. Because that speed is for one channel, which would be shared by many users in a given area, a real user would get anywhere between 2mbps and 10mbps, according to an analyst at the Marshall Group. But the technological jump still faces several hurdles. First, most carriers will need new radio spectrum to carry LTE services, he said. LTE will need about twice as much spectrum as currently used by 3G technology to deliver promised speeds. Once networks get up and running, the speed you get will depend partly on how many base stations your carrier puts up for it, as well as how many other people are trying to use your local base station, he said. Also, the wireless link between the handset and base station doesn't go all the way to the Internet. In between is the carrier's "backhaul" connection, which today often consists of one or more T1 leased lines at 1.5mbps each. Without upgrades, backhaul could create a bottleneck. LTE's rival, mobile WiMax, will be out sooner with large deployments in the United States next year. From the start, WiMax should deliver speeds at least at the low end of the 2mbps-to-10mbps range, he said. But it faces the same questions when it comes to real speed to the subscriber's phone or laptop.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/07/Fast-mobile-on-track-faces-curves_1.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *November 8, WMAZ 13* – (Georgia) **Fire claims Norcross Lumber business.**

Firefighters in Gwinnett County, Georgia, continued to monitor hot spots Thursday morning at the scene of a large two-alarm fire that broke out after 6 p.m. Wednesday and destroyed a lumberyard in Norcross. The fire, fueled by the drought conditions, engulfed the entire lumber yard along with some trees nearby. Power was cut to businesses in the area on Wednesday evening, but was restored by 10 p.m. that night. Norfolk Southern officials said they halted traffic in both directions on a nearby train line that carries about 24 Norfolk Southern freight trains per day while the blaze was being fought. Amtrak officials said the #20 Crescent train from New Orleans was held at the Atlanta Amtrak station for several hours. Fire investigators have yet to determine the fire's cause.

Source: http://www.13wmaz.com/news/new_story.aspx?storyid=45330

37. *November 8, ABC News* – (National) **FBI: Al Qaeda may strike U.S. shopping malls in LA, Chicago.** The F.B.I. is warning that al Qaeda may be preparing a series of holiday attacks on U.S. shopping malls in Los Angeles and Chicago, according to an intelligence report distributed to law enforcement authorities across the country Thursday morning. The alert said al Qaeda "hoped to disrupt the U.S. economy and has

been planning the attack for the past two years.” The bulletin acknowledges that U.S. intelligence officers are uncertain that information is real, and intelligence officers say there is a concern that it could be “disinformation.” Though law enforcement officials at three different agencies told ABC News the F.B.I. alert was based on a source who has proved reliable in the past, that source reportedly had only “indirect access” to al Qaeda and word of the actual threat came “through a lengthy chain” of contacts. A Department of Homeland Security official said: “We have no credible, specific information suggesting an imminent attack.”

Source: <http://blogs.abcnews.com/theblotter/2007/11/exclusive-fbi-a.html>

38. *November 7, Fox News* – (International; National) **FBI: Terrorists moving toward greater use of WMDs, attacks on soft targets.** Radical Islamists who have failed in efforts to hit traditional military and diplomatic targets are increasingly eyeing so-called “soft targets,” and could be moving toward greater use of chemical and biological weapons, reads “Terrorism 2002-2005,” a new terrorism threat report released by the F.B.I. on Wednesday. For instance, the report says Al Qaeda is looking increasingly at targeting market places, subways and other civilian sites. Those attacks are increasingly being carried out by trainees, who set out to pursue their own regional agendas. The latest evidence of this trend was demonstrated Tuesday in the arrest of 20 people across Europe accused of recruiting suicide bombers. Italian police who led the investigation said the recruits were being trained to go into Afghanistan and Iraq; investigators found explosives, detonation devices, various poisons and manuals on guerrilla warfare.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,309221,00.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

39. *November 8, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **3 national forests set to reopen after wildfires.** Much of the Angeles, Los Padres and San Bernardino national forests will reopen today after being closed for two weeks due to the Southern California wildfires. Authorities warn, however, that an extreme fire risk remains. In the Angeles National Forest, areas that burned during the Ranch and Buckweed fires will remain closed for regrowth of vegetation. The forests were closed due to the fires, as well as the diversion of law enforcement and other resources to other blazes throughout Southern California.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-forest8nov08,1,6501914.story?coll=la-headlines-california>

40. *November 7, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Feds investigate logging in forest.** Agriculture Department investigators are in the Giant Sequoia National Monument this week probing allegations of illegal logging. The investigators from the department’s Office of Inspector General are examining claims that the Forest Service allowed about 200 protected trees to be chopped down in 2004 and 2005. Environmentalists contend the logging included trees removed near the Trail of 100 Giants. National monuments are supposed to be off limits for timber production, but logging is allowed on national forests.

Source: <http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/184999.html>

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Dams Sector

41. *November 7, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks* – (Washington)
Businesses, transportation corridors protected as repairs completed on damaged Green River levee. King County, Washington is completing repairs to a damaged Green River levee in advance of fall storms. Weakened by persistent rainfall that resulted in sustained high flows in the river for several days in 2006, a 400-foot-long portion of the aging Briscoe School Levee has been rebuilt in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is once again ready to protect the economically valuable Green River Valley throughout Kent, Renton and Tukwila. The levee protects a commercial area of more than five square miles in size that includes about 500 light manufacturing, warehouses and distribution facilities, as well as numerous roads that provide transportation access between Auburn, Kent, and Renton, and utilities that supply gas and electricity to many businesses.

Source: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/dnrp/press/2007/1107BriscoeRepairsComplete.htm>

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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